MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are in a position to increase the quantity?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir. The matter will be considered.

Supply of ration to hotels.

165. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether hotels in the towns are given full ration;

(*b*) if there has been a reduction, by what percentage; and

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties felt by people, who have to go to towns on business and who will have to stay there temporarily, in the matter of getting meals in hotels?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The units allotted have been reduced by 50 per cent with effect from May 1946.

(*c*) Yes.

Ration Merchants.

166. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received representations from merchants about the hardships caused to them on account of the indiscriminate enforcement of direction that any punishment of the licensees will disqualify them from carrying on ration trade on food-grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes. The attention of the member is invited to the Press Note dated 27th June 1946.

Retail foodgrains dealers in Parur taluk.

167. *MR E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of retail dealers in food grains in Parur taluk at present;

(*b*) how many of them are old licensees;

(*c*) how many new licenses were given during Edavom and Mithunam 1121; and

(*d*) how many of the new licensees are now actually dealing in food grains?

MR. K. R NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) 154.

(*b*) 147.

(*c*) 11.

(*d*) 7.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: In answer to part (c) the Director has stated "eleven" as the number of new licenses given during Idavom and Mithunam 1121. But in answer to part (d) it is stated that only seven are functioning. May I know the reason why the other four are not functioning?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I do not know the reason. I myself have to call for the information. I must get the information from the Tahsildar.

MR. D. THOMAS (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavancode*): In answer to (c) it is stated that eleven licensees are working and out of these eleven, only seven are functioning and four of them are not functioning. Are those non-functioning merchants still holding their licences?

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